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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9082

S E C R E T MANAMA 000691

SIPDIS

PM FOR A/S SHAPIRO FROM AMBASSADOR ERELI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/03/2019
TAGS: [OVIP](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [MARR](#) [BA](#)
SUBJECT: SCENESETTER FOR MANAMA DIALOGUE, DECEMBER 11-13

REF: A. MANAMA 660
[B](#). MANAMA 628 C. MANAMA 651 Classified By: CDA Christopher Henzel for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

- 1.(C) Mr. Assistant Secretary, you will arrive in Bahrain at a time of introspection for the Bahraini regime as this year's IISS Manama Dialogue
- 2.(C) Following the death of his father, Emir Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa in 1999, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa inherited a country torn by sectarian
- 3.(C) A graduate of the Mons Officer Cadet School and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, King Hamad takes a leading role in direc
- 4.(C) Bahrain was designated a Major Non-NATO Ally in 2002, and KingHamad believes it is important that Bahrain do its part in support of regic
- 5.(C) King Hamad views an activist foreign policy as essential for a small state like Bahrain that wants its interests to be considered in the
- 6.(C) Bahrain was one of the first Gulf states to reopen its embassy in Baghdad, and, while wary of the Maliki government, has reached out to I
- 7.(C) King Hamad understands that Bahrain cannot prosper if he rules by repression. Bahrain's civil society is active and is engaged with Middl
- 8.(S) The 2004 withdrawal of U.S. Navy dependents represented the nadir in our counterterrorism relationship. Since then, the government has er
- 9.(C) Unlike its neighbors, Bahrain is not blessed with abundant oil and gas, and so has diversified its economy, establishing itself as the wc
- 10.(C) Bahrain has also expressed long-term interest in nuclear power, and in March, 2008 signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. or
- 11.(U) In August 2006, the U.S.-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement entered into force -- the culmination of a multiyear effort to open and reform Bah
- 12.(C) King Hamad is personable and engaging. He rules as something of a "corporate king," giving direction and letting his top people manage t
- 13.(C) In November, 2008, senior officials from PM, NEA, and OSD met with Bahraini counterparts as part of the Gulf Security Dialogue. Since th